

The Monthly Newsletter of the South Bay Amateur Radio Association

The Presidents Corner

By Jim Thomas, KI6TCE

It's hard to believe that it is November already. The holidays are upon us and it is time to celebrate! We are planning to have a Pot Luck in December for our last meeting. The Club will provide a main dish; all you need is to provide a side dish or desert. We are also planning a few other activities as well.

1. **RAFFLE** – We have our sights on a nice raffle prized, and we thought this can also be an opportunity for us all to share. If you have a piece of equipment you don't use anymore and would like it to find a good home with another ham, donate it to the clubs "Holiday Raffle." (On a side note that I have yet to share with the board: if enough people get involved, we can make it a "White Elephant" gift exchange).

2. **HOME BREW** – The second activity is home brew. Bring your current or finished project and be prepared to make a short presentation of your work. Send me an email letting me know that you are participating and what you will be presenting so I can make the announcement during our potluck.

3. **ELECTIONS** – This is a chance for you to help the club. A full leadership slate is necessary for a club to meet the needs of its members. Members

of the current board will be around to help and support their successors. We've had a great year, so let's keep this momentum going. Let me know which of these positions interest you. Please step up to fill one of the following positions;

Elected Positions are:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Past President
- Activities Manager

Appointed Positions are:

(nominees to be submitted to the 2011 board for appointment at the January Board meeting):

- Newsletter Editor
- Quarter Master
- Web Master
- Circulation Manager
- Membership Chairman
- Photographer
- Technical Advisor
- Member at Large
- Program Facilitator
- Refreshments
- Raffle Chairman

It's going to be a fun potluck, so I hope to see you all there. Family is invited too, but please let me know if you are coming and how many so we can plan for enough food.

See you at the next meeting!



Topics

- Club Elections
- DSTAR 101

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SBARA's Holiday Potluck & Raffle Details

SBARA's December Potluck

Our December meeting will take on a different format. We are planning a pot-luck and home brew presentation evening on Friday, December 10th. If Hurricane Electric allows us to bring food, we will hold

this event at our regular meeting place. Come and break bread with us, and if you have something to share, you will get a few minutes to demonstrate your latest home brew project. (please provide me with a short written intro when you come to the potluck.

SBARA's December Raffle

In keeping with the theme of our December meeting, the December raffle will also be pot luck. That's right; the prizes will be provided by you! This is a great time to look through your gear and cull out any items that you don't use but that another Ham might enjoy. For each item you bring, you will receive one free

raffle ticket. There will be one nice "grand" prize (Shhhhh, it's still a secret!) but the rest of the raffle is up to you. The more you bring, the more exciting our December raffle will be! Contact Robin, KI6YTA@arrl.net, if you have any questions.

Get Ready for SBARA Elections

SBARA Elections December!!!!

It's that time of the year again!! Now is your opportunity to help build the direction of SBARA for 2011 and beyond. If you have never run for a position, please consider doing so. You will receive help from the existing officers and board members.

Positions to be elected will be the Four (4) club officer positions. They include; President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Elections will take place in December during our monthly meeting.



VE Happenings

Upcoming Tri City VE Group License Exams:

November 13 Saturday 9:00
a.m.
December 16, Thursday 6:30
p.m.

Saratoga Amateur Radio Association will be having a one day Technician Class Training and Exam on Saturday November 13 at West Valley College. This is not taught in the 'ham cram' style. For more information, contact www.k6sa.net.

SBARA's Groundplane

Tri-City VE News

Google strikes again. The Tri City VE Group uses Google Groups to communicate with our VEs. Once a month we check volunteer availability. Then we send a reminder the day prior to testing because personal schedules often change. One other communication to VEs is an every-so-often trivia question. For our Groundplane readers, we thought you might like to see some questions we've posted.

Q. Who develops the Exam question pool?

A. The National Conference of VECs develops the pools. There are 14 VECs in the United States. We belong to the ARRL VEC. You might also be familiar with W5YI, Sunnyvale VEC, or Laurel VEC down in Monterey.



Currently the National Conference is working on the General Class Element 3 question pool, which will be effective July 1, 2011. If you have any input for the question pool committee, contact them at www.ncvec.org.

Q. When will Extra Element 4 question pool change?

A. If you're planning to upgrade to Extra Class Element 4, you've got time to study. The question pool will change on July 1, 2012.

Q. Can someone with a current Technician License that was issued in 1986 get upgraded to General without taking the exam?

A. Our own SBARA member and Tri City VE, Jerry Grandstaff N6BY, gave Jack Whitfield my phone number so he could

turn his 1985 Technician License, which has been consistently active, into a General.

While the ARRL VE Manual states the Grandfather rules, it doesn't exactly say *how* to do an upgrade without doing an exam. This is what Jack needs to do: Since his 1985 license has decided to hide, he's contacted the FCC for another official copy. He'll bring that to our session and fill out the NCVEC 605 stating that he's upgrading, and our Candidate Docket.

At Registration, he'll provide two forms of ID instead of one, because time has elapsed, we need to be sure he's the same guy. At Finance, he pays the \$15 fee.

We will escort him into the Exam room, but he won't take an Exam.

At Grading, he will fill out a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) which must be signed by three VEs and the "Pre 3/21/87" statement at the upper right hand corner of the CSCE form will be circled. Voila! He's a General. And we will have had a very rare learning experience. Thank you, Jerry!

Our VEs are continuously learning and the Google Group trivia posts are a fun way to do it.

73,
Rita Derbas KI6SSQ

D-STAR 101

Talking to somebody on simplex or on a VHF/UHF repeater with your VHF/UHF radio is very simple, you just need to know the frequency, offset and PL tone if any. However, if you have not been able to get on the D-STAR system with your D-STAR radio, read on because I have finally figured out how simple it really is. It took me a while though, because there is a LOT of information out there, but most of it is either too fragmented or too much about the repeater itself. So, just put everything you were told about D-STAR aside and follow along.

Actually, D-STAR is very much like using a regular repeater, and quite simple once you know the 4 basic terms. D-STAR compatible radios have a DV mode, just like the good old FM mode. The D-STAR configuration, aka DV setup, consists of entering call signs in 4 fields – MYCALL, URCALL, RPT1 and RPT2.

MYCALL - You normally enter your own callsign in MYCALL and never have to change it as long as you use the radio.

URCALL – This is simply the station you want to call. Or, to call anyone you enter CQCQCQ

RPT1 – This is the callsign of your local repeater that is within your radio's reach. If you move to a different city then change this to the local repeater you can access over there.

RPT2 – Is used open a gateway to contact people beyond your local area or beyond your band.

A few examples will help illustrate their usage using WW6BAY D-STAR repeater on 444.075 MHz, +5MHz offset, and no PL.

(a) SIMPLEX OPERATION

MYCALL = K6VUG (my callsign)

URCALL = CQCQCQ or KI6CJD (callsign being called)

RPT1 = blank

RPT2 = blank

Select a simplex FM frequency, switch the radio mode to DV, make sure no one is using the frequency, and press PTT and give out your call sign. If anyone is within range and want to respond they will. That's it!

(b) REPEATER OPERATION ON SAME BAND

MYCALL = K6VUG (my callsign)

URCALL = CQCQCQ or KI6CJD (callsign being called)

RPT1 = WW6BAY B (callsign of repeater on 440 MHz band)

RPT2 = blank

Tune the radio to the repeater's frequency and offset just like you would do for any repeater, press PTT and announce your call sign. In this example, stations listening to the repeater on the same (UHF) band will hear the call.

(c) REPEATER USING CROSS BAND OPERATION

MYCALL = K6VUG (my callsign)

URCALL = CQCQCQ or KI6CJD (callsign being called)

RPT1 = WW6BAY B (callsign of repeater on 440 MHz band)

RPT2 = WW6BAY C (callsign of repeater on 144 MHz band)

Note: D-STAR repeaters can be setup to operate on several bands simultaneously. So, in this example, stations listening to the repeater on the both the 440 MHz band as well as the 144 MHz band will hear the call.

D-STAR 101

(d) CALLING ON REMOTE REPEATERS LINKED VIA THE GATEWAY

MYCALL = K6VUG (my callsign)
URCALL = CQCQCQ or KI6CJD (callsign being called)
RPT1 = WW6BAY B (callsign of repeater on 440 MHz band)
RPT2 = WW6BAY G (callsign of gateway)

In this example, a general CQ call can be heard by stations listening to any of the linked repeaters on any of the bands supported by their repeaters. A call to a specific callsign will prompt the system to route your call to the repeater and band where the callsign was last heard.

(e) ECHO TESTING ON THE LOCAL REPEATER

MYCALL = K6VUG (my callsign)
URCALL = CQCQCQ (general call)
RPT1 = WW6BAY B (callsign of repeater on 440 MHz band)
RPT2 = WW6BAY E (callsign used for the echo function)

When you press PTT and say something like "<callsign> echo test", the repeater will echo back the voice it heard. Most D-STAR repeaters offer this convenient test feature that helps to confirm radio settings and voice quality.

These examples should make it easy to understand the configuration of the D-STAR radios. Also, observe that some cases shown above illustrate some convenient features not generally possible on regular repeaters. These are, in fact, some of the biggest feature change when using D-STAR system.

Before one can start using the repeater's gateway features, a small step needs to be completed –

- (1) Search the internet or navigate to www.dstarusers.org and identify the local D-STAR repeater in your area
- (2) Navigate to the repeater website (WW6BAY website is www.bay-net.org) and sign up your call sign on their web site. Once confirmed, you can use the entire D-STAR system to make some really interesting contacts in distant countries.

That's all there is to it. Remember only four entries – MYCALL, URCALL, RPT1 and RPT2 control everything. MYCALL and RPT1 remain unchanged if you remain in the same area, URCALL is simply the destination you are trying to call and RPT2 is based on the feature being used.

Congratulate yourself, you deserve it! After successfully mastering these modes, you will be well on your way to enjoy the more advanced features of this new exciting area of amateur radio.

73

Umesh Ghodke

K6VUG

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933 N. Euclid St., 92801
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(800) 854-6046
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NEW LOCATION!**PHOENIX, AZ**

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SBARA's Groundplane

South Bay Amateur Radio Association

Founded 1974

Mailing Address

Box 8401

Fremont, Ca. 94537-8401

Web Site — www.sbara.org

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Vice President

Robin Yee, KI6YTA

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Secretary

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Webmaster

Umesh Ghodke, K6VUG

Quartermaster

Rita Derbas, KI6SSQ

Program Facilitator

Al Rendon, WT6K

Photographer

Dan Curtis, N6WN

Local Repeater & Net Information

WA6PWW - 147.015 +600Khz, PL 103.5

WA6PWW - 223.900 -500Khz, PL 107.2

WA6PWW - 442.600 +5Mhz, PL 107.2

K6AIR - 146.940 -600Khz, PL 123.0

K6AIR - 441.525 +5Mhz, PL 123.0

ARES - Tuesday @ 7:30pm -

147.015 + PL 103.5

SBARA Meeting Location

Our meeting location is at

Hurricane Electric.

The address in Fremont is:

760 Mission Court — Come to the meeting.

Bring your HF transceiver, antenna) or HT !

Talk-In 147.015Mhz. +600

Also consider joining us at Wok City Diner
for Dinner at 6PM

Mingle with your fellow SBARA members !!

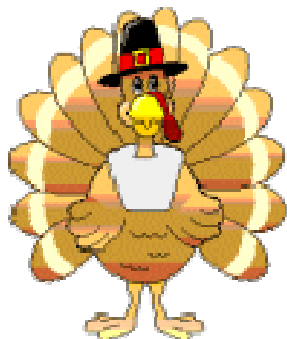
The **South Bay Amateur Radio Association** is a general interest amateur radio club serving the Fremont Tri-City area. The club has been in existence since 1974, and has functioned continuously ever since. We are an ARRL Special Service Club, a California not-for-profit tax exempt organization as specified in IRS Stat-

utes. We sponsor training for new hams, license examination sessions, and participate in various public service events. If you have a specialized amateur radio interest, chances are you can share it with one or more of our club members.

SBARA meets on the 2nd Friday of every month at Hurricane Electric in Fre-

mont, California. The meeting begins at 7:30 PM. After conducting business, coffee and snacks are served while we socialize. Following the break, a program of interest will be presented. All persons interested in amateur radio are invited to attend. Families are welcome. We hope to see you there!

SBARA's Groundplane



Club Announcements

SBARA's November meeting is the 12th @ 7:30PM....

Our meeting location is at
Hurricane Electric

60 Mission Court Fremont,
Ca.

Come to the meeting and
bring your; Go Pack, HF Rig,
HT, and Antennas!!

Talk-In 147.015Mhz. +600

Come and join us for fellow-
ship and dinner at

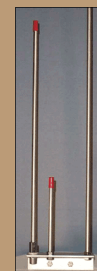
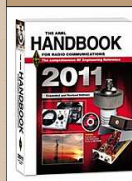
Wok City Diner at 6PM !!

November Raffle Prizes

First Prize: Arrow Dual Band J-
Pole

Second Prize: ARRL Handbook
for Radio Communications,
Hardcover 2011 Edition

Third Prize: Handy Dandy
Handie Talkie Holder -- Fits in
your vehicle's cup
holder, adjusts to se-
curely hold
your HT or cell
phone.



The Ground Plane — KU6S
<http://www.sbara.org>
South Bay Amateur Radio Association — SBARA
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